

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, PL, SW

SUBJECT: MITREGA VISIT: POLISH-SWEDISH COOPERATION IN COAL

REF: WARSAW 1912

1. SUMMARY: SWEDISH EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED INFORMATION INDICATING THAT POLAND AND SWEDEN INTEND IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS TO WORK OUT LONG-RANGE PLANS FOR COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF NEW POLISH COAL MINES, IN PART, TO SUPPLY COKING COAL FOR EXPANDED SWEDISH STEEL INDUSTRY. IN THIS CONNECTION, SWEDES EXPECT VISIT IN JUNE BY POLISH DEPUTY PREMIER MITREGA, WHO IS ALSO MINISTER OF MINING AND POWER. END SUMMARY.

2. RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH SWEDISH EMBASSY OFFICERS HERE INDICATE THAT POLISH COAL, WHICH WAS ONE OF SUBJECTS IDENTIFIED FOR COOPERATION DURING EARLY APRIL VISIT OF PREMIER PALME, IS OF MAJOR INTEREST TO SWEDEN. ASISDE FROM DELIVERIES OF COAL TO SWEDEN, WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SWEDES ARE LOOKING TO POLAND AS SOURCE OF SUBSTANTIAL

AMOUNTS OF COKING COAL FOR NEW STEEL COMPLEX AT LULEA AT NORTHERN EDGE OF THE BALTIC. SWEDES REPORTEDLY WILL NEED 1.6 MILLION TONS OF COKING COAL FOR THIS FACILITY WITHIN TWO TO THREE YEARS AND 4 MILLION TONS ANNUALLY BY 1980, WHEN NEW STEEL MILL IS SCHEDULED TO BE IN FULL OPERATION.

3. MAIN FOCUS OF POSSIBLE SWEDISH-POLISH COOPERATION APPEARS TO BE LARGE HARD COAL DEPOSITS RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN SOUTHEASTERN POLAND, NEAR LUBLIN, WHICH ACCORDING TO ONE POLISH SOURCE ARE ESTIMATED TO CONTAIN AS MUCH AS 40 BILLION TONS. DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RESERVES UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE COSTLY, SINCE RESERVES ARE DEEP UNDERGROUNDS, AND NEW MINES AND TRANSPORT FACILITIES MUST BE CONSTRUCTED. PROPOSED COOPERATIVE EFFORT, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAS BEEN DISCUSSED ONLY IN VERY GENERAL TERMS THUS FAR, MIGHT ENTAIL SUPPLY OF SWEDISH EQUIPMENT AND CREDITS IN RETURN FOR LONG-TERM SUPPLY CONTRACTS.

4. AS RESULT OF UNDERSTANDING REACHED DURING PALME VISIT BETWEEN POLISH MINISTER OF MINING AND POWER JAN MITREGA AND SWEDISH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY RUNE JOHANSSON, SWEDISH EXPERTS ARE TO VISIT POLAND FOR DETAILED DISCUSSION IN NEAR FUTURE. MITREGA, WHO IS ALSO A DEPUTY PREMIER, WILL THEN VISIT SWEDEN IN JUNE.

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